

Rotary District 5170 - Project Share Life

Easy Steps to Hosting Marrow Donor Testing

(Rev 08/12/05)

1. **Commit.** To be successful, your club membership and leadership needs to understand the urgent need for Marrow Donor registration and be willing to commit to make a successful testing opportunity part of your Community Service Avenue of Service. Support and enthusiasm are infectious.
2. **Appoint Leadership.** Appoint a capable member of your club to head the project. While we are making every effort to simplify the process and assure your success, it is important to have a project leader with good communication skills who will follow through on either accomplishing or delegating the project tasks.
3. **Identify Potential Donor Sources.** Determine whether you choose to provide a public testing opportunity or an employer or other group on-site session. While a testing session can be held for as few as 20 potential donors, the goal is to add as many potential donors to the database as possible.
 - a. Consider promotion at (or even conducting testing sessions at) community events, scheduled blood drives, college campuses, or meetings or activities that bring together significant numbers of potential marrow donors.
 - b. Employer, agency, or group on-site sessions provide a valuable opportunity to reach significant numbers of potential donors in an environment that allows effective distribution of information and support for donor registration through internal newsletters, paycheck inserts, company/group meetings, or other means.
 - c. While all potential donors need to be registered to maximize the chances of locating a donor match, keep in mind that each potential donor remains in the database until he/she turns 61. Youthful registrants will remain available for donor matching for 30-40 years.
 - d. Due to the large under-representation of minorities in the donor database, **funding sources are available for the testing and registration for virtually all ethnic minorities.** Employers or other groups or events with significant percentages of minority participants can provide important contributions to the database **with no cost to your club.**
4. **Contact District Chair.** A “one-stop” contact point has been established to facilitate your donor testing session. Contact Rotarian Arley C. Marley III at (408)737-1075 (office) or email arley@info-scan.com to:
 - a. Gather further information to help your club learn about the dramatic need and the exciting opportunity to make a life-saving difference.
 - b. Arrange for qualified speakers to assist your club in making presentations to groups or employers that may be sources of donor testing opportunities.
 - c. Set possible dates for a donor testing drive.
5. **Determine Funding Sources.** The cost to register a new potential donor in the National Marrow Donor Program is currently \$65. This cost is for the “full HLA laboratory testing”, which is essentially DNA testing and typing. There is no cost for the services or materials provided by the American Red Cross at the testing session. As indicated above, full funding is available to cover the cost of minority donors. Therefore, the cost to be covered is determined by the number of Caucasian donors tested. Our project’s goal is to identify funding sources to assist your club in covering the testing cost:

- a. **Club Support.** Please consider whether your club is able to designate funds to be utilized for this project. Consider implementing a fund-raising mechanism such as a 50/50 raffle to generate funds to be used for testing. Feel free to ask for ideas or suggestions, if needed.
 - b. **Employer Support.** If holding an employer on-site session, discuss whether company funds are available to assist with the testing cost. Arrangements can be made to have employer or individual contributions made through a qualified 501(c)(3) organization to qualify the contribution as a tax deductible charitable contribution.
 - c. **Project Matching Funds.** A limited amount of funding is available through District 5170 Project Share Life. Contact the district chair to discuss your club's needs. Please understand that funds availability is limited and some funds have been made available with restrictions to as to geographic area or other conditions. Some degree of preference will be given to using available funds in "matching" club/employer funds and to encourage testing opportunities with significant minority segments.
6. **Set a Date and Place.** The District Chair will assist you with scheduling American Red Cross personnel to do the blood sample drawing. Facility-wise, the minimum requirement is 2 or 3 tables and 8 or 10 chairs. Allow sufficient time to publicize the testing opportunity and plan for the most effective distribution of educational information in advance of the testing session. Experience has shown that there are two major obstacles causing potential donors to not be registered. First is a simple lack of knowledge as to the need for donors and the life-saving potential of a marrow transplant. The second is the lack of accurate information as to the process of being tested (drawing a small blood sample) and the actual marrow harvesting, if matched with a patient needing a transplant.
7. **Ready to Go?** Once you have decided to join Project Life Share, contact the coordinator with the following information:
 - a. Possible date for your proposed testing session. The Project Coordinator will act as liaison to coordinate schedules with Red Cross, and other agencies.
 - b. The location and type of testing session, i.e. employer on-site, community event, etc.
 - c. Anticipated number to be tested.
 - d. Club, employer and other funds available.
8. **Resources Available.** The District Chair can assist with the following items:
 - a. **National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) Testing Personnel.** Phlebotomists, clerical staff, and testing materials are provided by the NMDP at no cost. The District Chair will function as liaison with the NMDP.
 - b. **Speakers.** Speakers are available to speak to your club, employer meetings, or other groups regarding the Bone Marrow Donor Program to assist in promoting your testing session.
 - c. **Educational Material.** The District Chair will function as a clearinghouse for brochures, pamphlets and flyers explaining the marrow donor need and process. If your session is likely to include significant populations of particular ethnic breakdowns, please discuss this with the District Chair, as informational material may be available addressing particular community segments.
 - d. **Matching Funds.** The District Chair will be able to provide information as to all identified funding sources available to assist in covering the donor testing cost.